

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /088 W  
-----074008 101740Z /46

R 100942Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0205  
INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAIA 0252

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MASS, MORG, CV  
SUBJECT: MILITARY INSTITUTIONS AND SOVIET BLOC ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT OF CAPE VERDE (GOCV) HAS INITIATED A  
SIGNIFICANT NEW PROGRAM TO CREATE ITS OWN INDIGENOUS  
MILITARY FORCES. FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE, AN ESSENTIALLY  
CARPET-BAG GOVERNMENT OF CIVIL AND MILITARY LEADERS ARRIVED  
FROM GUINEA-BISSAU TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THE NEW STATE. ACTUAL  
MILITARY FORCES WERE LIMITED AND CONSISTED LARGELY OF FORMER  
GUERRILLA FORCE UNITS WHICH HAD FOUGHT UNDER THE BANNER OF THE  
AFRICAN PARTY FOR THE LIBERATION GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE  
(PAIGC) ON THE MAINLAND. BEGINNING LAST YEAR WITH THE INTRO-  
DUCTION OF COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE AND RECENTLY WITH A  
NUMBER OF OTHER PROGRAMS, THE GOCV IS ACTIVELY CREATING,  
WITH SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN ASSISTANCE, ITS OWN LOCAL  
ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE FOR CAPE VERDE AND GUINEA-  
BISSAU WAS FOUGHT BY MILITANTS FROM BOTH COUNTRIES.  
HOWEVER THE MAJORITY OF LEADERS (BOTH MILITARY AND  
POLITICAL) WERE CAPE VERDEANS AND MULATTOS (FROM BOTH  
COUNTRIES) WHILE THE MAJORITY OF THE SOLDIERS WERE GUINEA-  
BISSAUN AFRICANS. FOLLOWING THE PORTUGUESE ACCEPTANCE OF  
INDEPENDENCE, THE LEADERSHIP SPLIT UP AND SOME WENT TO CAPE

VERDE TO ESTABLISH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN PRAIA. THEY TOOK WITH THEM A NUMBER (PROBABLY NEVER MORE THAN 1,5000) OF PAIGC TROOPS.

2. AS PAIGC THEORY STATES THAT THE PARTY IS THE SOURCE OF LEGITIMACY FOR BOTH COUNTRIES, AND THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WILL EVENTUALLY BE UNITED, THIS SITUATION POSED NO PROBLEMS FOR THE CAPE VERDEAN LEADERSHIP, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM HOLD TOP PARTY POSITIONS AS WELL AS SENIOR GOVERNMENT POSTS. ACCORDING TO THE CAPE VERDEAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, SILVINO DA LUZ, THERE IS REALLY ONLY ONE ARMED FORCE - REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF THE PEOPLE (FARP) - FOR BOTH COUNTRIES, SUBJECT ONLY TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE PARTY.

3. THIS THEORY NOTWITHSTANDING, THE GOCV HAS RECENTLY LAUNCHED A PROGRAM OF MILITARY INSTITUTION BUILDING IN CAPE VERDE. THE FOLLOWING STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN:

A. IN 1977 THE GOCV INTRODUCED COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE FOR YOUNG MEN.

B. IN FEBRUARY 1978 A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THE MAINLAND ORIGIN TROOPS WENT HOME.

C. A LOCAL MILITIA HAS BEEN FORMED AND IS BEING TRAINED (PROBABLY WITH EAST GERMAN ASSISTANCE).

D. GOCV ACCEPTED GIFT OF SOVIET SHIP FOR USE BY FLEDGING NAVY (PRAIA 0183).

E. ACCORDING TO EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR, SMALL NUMBER OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CAPE VERDEANS ARE IN SOVIET UNION BEING TRAINED AS BASIC CORE OF NEW AIR FORCE.

F. SOVIET ESTABLISHMENT IN CAPE VERDE HAS BEEN BEEFED UP BY ADDITION OF NINE (9) MILITARY ADVISORS, SOME OF WHOM ARE ONLY ON TEMPORARY DETAIL TO THE ISLANDS. NEW PERSONNEL APPEAR TO BE FORM OF MAAG GROUP RATHER THAN INTELLIGENCE TYPES.

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

RUEHCRJDAMEMBASSY MAPUTO 0012

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRAIA 0252

G. IN PAST NINE MONTHS, CAPE VERDE HAS RECEIVED COMPARATIVELY LARGE AMOUNTS OF SUPPLIES FROM SOVIET UNION, INCLUDING TANKS AND ARMED CARS AS WELL AS HOWITZERS.

4. ITEM D (GIFT SHIP) AND POSSIBLY F ABOVE ARE PROBABLY INITIAL GRAIN OF SAND WHICH RESULTED IN LONDON NEWSPAPER PEARL THAT SOVIET UNION IS ESTABLISHING MILITARY BASE IN CAPE VERDE. WE BELIEVE THAT STORY IS FALSE: AND THAT NO SUCH BASE COULD BE CREATED WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE. IN ADDITION, IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR ON JULY 6, PRESIDENT PEREIRA REPLIED TO DIRECT QUESTION ABOUT LONDON STORY WITH UNQUALIFIED REAFFIRMATION THAT GOCV WILL NOT PROVIDE BASING FACILITIES TO ANY COUNTRY.

5. THAT GOCV IS CREATING ARMED FORCES IS HARDLY SURPRISING, EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PARTY'S COMMITMENT TO UNIFICATION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. HOWEVER THE PARTY HAS ALREADY PERMITTED THE CREATION OF OTHER NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
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(E.G. THE NATIONAL COUNCILS OF THE PAIGC) WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO THREATEN THE CONTINUED UNITY OF THE TWO-COUNTRY POLITICAL SYSTEM.

6. THAT THE GOCV TURNED TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GDR FOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS ENDEAVOR IS ALSO NOT SURPRISING, GIVEN THE LONG MILITARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEADERSHIP AND THE SOVIET BLOC. (THE GOCV MINISTER FOR DEFENSE IS PARTICULARLY ORIENTED TOWARDS THE BLOC.) IN FACT, WE HAVE LONG BEEN PUZZLED BY THE SCARCITY OF SOVIET OFFICIALS AND TECHNICIANS (MILITARY AND OTHERWISE) IN CAPE VERDE AS COMPARED WITH GUINEA-BISSAU.

7. THIS NEW POLICY HAS MANY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE, AND

POSSIBLY THE NEAR FUTURE. PRESIDENT PEREIRA IS RUMoured TO BE ILL AND SLOWING DOWN. THE TWO MAJOR "CONTESTANTS" TO REPLACE HIM ARE PRIME MINISTER PEDRO PIRES AND MINISTER FOR DEFENSE SILVINO DA LUZ. BOTH WITH RESPECT TO INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY, THE GOCV IS STILL TRYING TO FIND ITS FEET AND ITS PLACE IN THE WORLD. THE NEW INSTITUTIONS BEING CREATED WILL PRESUMABLY BE BOTH TOOLS AND ACTORS IN THE EVOLUTION OF THIS NEW GOVERNMENT.

MARKS

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## Message Attributes

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